

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01071 210604Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----010847 210819Z /10

R 201520Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9205
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1071

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, LE
SUBJECT: UNTSO IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 166534; (B) JERUSALEM 1048; (C) RUQMJR #1059
2010830 (NOTAL)

1. ON JULY 20 I WAS BRIEFED ON BACKGROUND REFTEL (C)
RELATING TO IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF SENIOR US MILITARY
OBSERVER UNTSO, BY CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER (LTC POTTER)
AND SUSMO (LTC BRADLEY).

2. LTC BRADLEY ON JULY 14 WAS IN NAQUORA PRIOR TO TAKING
UP ASSIGNMENT AS UNMO IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. BASED ON
HIS DISCUSSION WITH UN PERSONNEL AT NAQUORA UNHQ, LTC
BRADLEY BECAME CONVINCED THAT UNMO'S IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON WERE BEING EXPOSED TO AN UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL
OF RISK. (WHILE THERE, UN FIELD SERVICE OFFICER
WOUNDED IN MINE INCIDENT (REFTEL B), WAS EVACUATED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 01071 210604Z

THROUGH NAQUORA TO ISRAEL.) SUCH WAS STRENGTH
OF HIS CONVICTION THAT LTC BRADLEY RETURNED TO
JERUSALEM AND DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH LTC
POTTER. LATTER, WHILE RECOGNIZING PROBLEM,
THOUGHT WAYS COULD BE FOUND TO MINIMIZE
RISK OF REPETITION OF MINE INCIDENT AND
SIMILAR DANGERS.

3. LTC BRADLEY AFTER REFLECTION OVER WEEKEND REPORTED HIS VIEWS TO CHIEF OF STAFF UNTSO ERSKINE WHO INFORMALLY SUGGESTED DIFFICULTY MIGHT BE SOLVED BY TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT BRADLEY WOULD NOT BE ASSIGNED TO DUTY IN LEBANON. ERSKINE SUGGESTION WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO COL. PECK (AUSTRALIA) ON BASIS OF UN PROCEDURES AND TO LTC POTTER ON BASIS BOTH UN PROCEDURES AND RULES HITHERTO APPLYING TO US PARTICIPATION IN UNTSO. UPSHOT WAS THAT BRADLEY (WITH CONCURRENCE ERSKINE AND POTTER) REQUESTED TO BE RELIEVED ASAP.

4. LTC POTTER WHILE RECOGNIZING INTEGRITY OF LTC BRADLEY'S MOTIVATION, BELIEVES THAT HE ACTED ON BASIS INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE. BRADLEY HAS ONLY RECENTLY ARRIVED IN ME AND HE SPENT ONLY A FEW HOURS AT UNHQ AT NAQUORA.

5. UNTSO HAS RECENTLY TAKEN STEPS TO REDUCE RISKS TO UN PERSONNEL AND IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL MEASURES. AT PRESENT, OP'S KHAM, MAR, RAS AND HIN ARE BEING REACHED VIA BINT JBAIL FROM TYRE. ON JULY 16, PLO SUPPLIED ESCORT VEHICLE. NOW, UN RELYING ON PLO LAISSEZ PASSER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JERUSA 01071 210604Z

AND, SINCE THESE FOUR OP'S LOCATED IN MOSLEM HELD AREA, RISK OF MINES AND BEING FIRED UPON CONSIDERED TO BE AT ACCEPTABLE LEVEL. UN STILL CONTINUING TO HAVE VEHICLES HIJACKED BUT PROBLEM NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS. UNTSO HAS CONSIDERED RELIEVING OP'S VIA HELICOPTERS BUT HAS REJECTED THIS OPTION BECAUSE IT IS CONSIDERED RISKIER THAN PRESENT MODUS OPERANDI.

6. LTC BRADLEY WILL NO DOUBT MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO DOD WHEN HE REACHES WASHINGTON. AS YET MEDIA UNAWARE OF HIS DECISION TO REQUEST TO BE RELIEVED. WHILE UNTSO HAS MORALE PROBLEMS, LTC POTTER THINKS THEY ARE MANAGEABLE.

7. COMMENT: FROM THIS LIMITED VANTAGE POINT, REASONING PARA 5, STATE 166534, APPEARS SOUND ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN ARABS DISCUSSING POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BETWEEN UNTSO AND RE-CONSTITUTED LEBANESE MILITARY UNITS. (FBISTA 191614Z).
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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